

February 9, 2023

Chair Aisha Gomez
State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Gomez and members of the Taxes Committee:

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs supports H.F.1400 to expand the Working Family Credit to include individuals who file taxes with an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN). This bill represents a crucial opportunity to address economic inequality, support low and middle-income families, and advance the state's commitment for a more equitable tax code system.

As a state agency, the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs advises and informs elected officials about the needs of the Latino community, and based on our work, we have seen the significant impact that financial insecurity and the rising costs of living have on our working families.

Last summer, the Council conducted a community listening session tour to listen to the needs of Latino Minnesotans. One of the key issues that was raised during this tour was the disparity in access to state tax credits between ITIN and SSN filers. This feedback echoed what we have heard in the past, indicating that this is a persistent and pressing issue that affects many members of our community.

ITIN filers play a vital role as workers, business owners, taxpayers, and community members and contribute to the funding of our public services. Yet, they are excluded from programs and benefits that support families, including the Working Family Credit.

The Working Family Credit provides a much-needed financial cushion for families who are struggling to get by and can help them afford essential expenses. However, the current restrictions on eligibility mean that many ITIN filers are unable to benefit from this critical program, despite their important contributions to our state's economy and communities.

Expanding eligibility of this Credit to include ITIN filers would help close this gap, making the program more inclusive and increasing its impact. This bill will allow roughly 8,200 more returns to qualify for this benefit. This expansion would also inject more money into our economy, helping to stimulate growth and create new opportunities for all Minnesotans.

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs strongly supports the adoption of H.F 1400 and encourages this committee to vote for the passage of this important legislation which takes an important step towards a more equitable and inclusive Minnesota.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Nicauris Heredia Rosario, Legislative and Policy Director